



WINTER NEWS LETTER



NOVEMBER, 1953

**E. Laurence Palmer  
Receives Nash Conservation Award**



E. Laurence Palmer, Director of Conservation Education of the National Wildlife Federation, recently received the Nash Conservation Award established by the Nash-Kelvinator Corporation. This award — a plaque plus a check for \$500.00 — was made for his pioneering work in classroom and laboratory techniques in the teaching of conservation. Dr. Palmer was one of ten selected from 729 nominees.

In making the award, George W. Mason said, "The automobile industry has a stake in conservation because so much of the enjoyment of the outdoors depends upon the automobile. We hope this program will impress upon the public the wide scope and scientific nature of modern conservation."

"As editor of the Cornell Rural School Leaflet, a quarterly that provided nature study guidance and material for teachers in New York State, and through his tutelage of more than 4,000 students at the university, he has exerted a profound and lasting influence upon the course of conservation education.

"He has developed pioneering courses in field natural history, outdoor living, and nature writing, and the teaching of conservation.

"In addition to his achievements as an educator, Dr. Palmer has an amazing record as a writer on the subject of conservation. He is the author of more than 500 articles and several books on the subject. His book entitled, 'Field Book of Natural History' is perhaps his most widely-known work." \*

\* Science Education, March, 1954.

**Boston Meeting of  
American Nature Study Society**

DICK WESTWOOD

An outstandingly varied program, that held special interest for many and general interest for just about everybody, was offered at the sessions of the American Nature Study Society in Boston, December 26 to 29, 1953, with a field trip climaxing the meeting on December 30. Ruth E. Hopson of Oregon was elected president for the coming year, succeeding Roger Tory Peterson, who, with signal aid from the Massachusetts Audubon Society, was mainly responsible for the successful 1953 sessions.

Although it sounded as though it would be primarily interesting to photographers, the opening session on Saturday afternoon, December 26, was fully as fascinating to those who never clicked a shutter. It started off with Richard Borden expaining the tricks he could do with his camera gun, and then proving it with movies taken with this clever and intricate invention. Then came Henry B. Kane, who explained some of the tricks of using the stroboscopic flash, with beautiful slides to show his mastery of this specialized field in photography. Two youngsters from Marblehead, Massachusetts — Torrey Jackson and David Tucker — demonstrated that the will to take good Nature photographs is important and that fancy equipment is not always necessary. Their cameras were old ones and their gadgets home-made, but the color slides they were able to show for their work were definitely in the professional class. The final speaker-photographer, G. Blake Johnson, described his work with 3-D photography. He showed some of the startling slides that resulted.

Sunday, December 27, was a full day, the morning session opening with Ted Pettit of the Boy Scouts of America describing the revised and redynamized program in Nature study now offered to the Scouts. Charles Mohr presented a splendid and practical paper on the effective use of field trips in Nature study work, a paper worthy of publication by itself as a key to field trip conducting. Speaking from the background of the second oldest Children's Museum in America, that in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, Miriam E. Dickey ably demonstrated how valuable such a museum can be in providing a varied fare in Nature study, functioning as a part of school and youth group work as well as with its own program. From the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Lenox, Massachusetts, came its director, Alvah W. Sanborn, to discuss the possibilities and problems involved in the development and conduct of a trail-side museum.

Sunday afternoon the Nature ramble around the old World with Roger Tory Peterson proved a rare treat. Then a pioneer in putting Nature on the television screen, Norman D. Harris of the Boston Museum of Science, described the intricacies of

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## AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY NEWS LETTER

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Nature Study Society  
Financial Statement  
1953

Debits: (See Part A)	
Bank balance as of	
January 1, 1953	\$ 820.98
Dues and Subscriptions	1,303.00
Sale of 6 Series D bonds	150.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,273.98
Credits: (See Part B)	
Printing and Stationery	\$ 275.40
Periodicals for members	903.50
Clerical assistance	55.00
Purchase of two	
Series J bonds	144.00
Postage	87.83
Annual meeting expense	78.43
Insufficient funds	8.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,552.16
Balance (Bank balance as of	
January 1, 1954)	\$ 721.82

G. W. Mouser

## Complete List of Deposits

January 23	\$ 273.50
February 6	186.50
February 26	124.50
March 7, Sale of	
6 Series D bonds	150.00
March 11	53.00
March 25	109.50
April 29	226.50
June 11	127.00
October 5	74.50
October 23	49.00
November 12	32.00
December 24	47.00
	<hr/>
Total	\$1,453.00

For each deposit here listed, our books are organized to show the following:

1. Complete list of subscription fees making up the deposit.
2. A carbon copy of the deposit slip as prepared with the adding machine, along with a detailed explanation of any irregularities that have arisen.

## Book Review

BENNETT T. GALE

Chief Geologist, National Park Service

A new member in the Field Guide series, edited by Roger Tory Peterson, has been published recently by Houghton Mifflin Company. It is Frederick H. Pough's *A Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals*, the only one of the series dealing with inanimate objects. Although differing in scope and content from other numbers of the series, best known through the editor's own bird guides, it is a fine addition to these handy field references.

Dr. Pough of the staff of the American Museum of Natural History has described individual minerals by physical properties, composition, distinguishing characteristics and occurrence. In addition, a brief statement is given of the geologic environment in which each mineral is found. The author has succeeded in presenting information leading to field recognition of the minerals and has included a number of simple laboratory tests. These determinations are not necessarily conclusive but should permit identification of all except the obscure minerals. One of the difficult problems confronting an author of such a guide book is the selection of minerals to be described. Dr. Pough has made a happy choice in his selection, including as he does both commonly found minerals and those of special interest to collectors.

The volume, selling for \$3.75, is profusely illustrated. Many minerals are shown in color. The illustrations of rock types are not nearly as lucid as are the mineral pictures, and in many cases it is doubted if they would be of significant use in rock identification.

The book is highly recommended to the amateur mineralogist, the serious mineral collector, and to those who wish to add the observation and study of rocks and minerals to their other interests in nature.

Science Activities in a  
Public School Day Camp\*

HELEN B. ROSS

Outdoor education is receiving increasing emphasis in American schools today. For this reason Fitchburg State Teachers College decided to offer a course in camping education for prospective teachers last spring. In order to give the teachers-to-be practical experience a three-day day camp was set up for the 65 sixth graders of the training schools.

Facilities and equipment were limited to the college woods, hand axes, buckets, shovels, rakes, binder twine, matches and pocket knives. Program was determined by these facilities and by the sixth graders' previous classroom experiences.

Consequently, the total program revolved around the topics: 1. What natural science materials which enabled the pioneers and Indians to survive are also useful to us in surviving and living comfortably in the woods today? 2. What skills are involved in using the natural materials of the woods?

Useful plants, poisonous plants, fire building materials, the science of fire and fire control, skill in using fire for cooking, geology in connection with the woodland setting, conservation, care and use of tools were emphasized.

When the children left camp they had all had experience in building a fire and caring for it, in successful outdoor cooking, in establishing and maintaining a good camp site and in caring for equipment. A scavenger hunt test revealed an unusually high level of learning for the plants of the area which could contribute to life in the outdoors.

Many of the children had also had a concrete experience in doing something to improve the woods; thereby developing better conservation understanding. All of them had had experience in wise selection of materials and in caring for trees and the site in general.

Increased interest in nature study and conservation was noted in classroom activities which followed the day camp experience.

\* Abstract of speech for Section Q of AAAS  
— December 28, 1953.

## A.N.S.S. MEMBERSHIP

Have You Paid  
Your Dues for 1954?

A glance at the financial statement from the treasurer shows that many members failed to send in their 1953 dues until the last quarter of the year.

If you have let this detail slip your mind, clip the membership blank found on the last page and mail it, with your dues, to the treasurer.

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## Boston Meeting American Nature Study Society

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this medium. His subject was "TV Is Worth The Agony," and he amply demonstrated the great possibilities of television in Nature Education. Dovetailing with this talk was an outstanding paper by Rea King of the National Audubon Society, who presented helpful guides to radio and television production in the Nature field. Raymond Gregg's inspiring talk, with slides, was devoted to the Nature interpretation work of the National Park Service, and was a highlight of the sessions. Dick Westwood, president of the American Nature Association and editor of *Nature Magazine*, closed the session with general observations on the evolution of Nature study thought and action.

C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, was in charge of the Monday afternoon session, which was a panel discussion of "An Approach to Nature Education for Everyone." Phoebe Arnold, John Brainerd, Edwin A. Mason and Mary Lela Grimes presented, respectively, helpful advice from the points of view of leadership, adult education, use of wildlife sanctuaries and public relations. This was a valuable how-to-do meeting packed with useful information.

Charles Mohr presided at the symposium session of Tuesday. This was devoted to ecology and its practical application and brought forth varied thinking on both ecology and conservation.

December 30 provided a day made to order for the 75 trippers who went on the trip planned by Russell Mason and led by Ruth P. Emery, Mary Lela Grimes, Charles Mohr, E. Laurence Palmer, Roger Tory Peterson, William G. Vinal, and Dick Weaver. Starting with a black guillemot sighted at Folly Cove, the trippers built up a respectable bird list for the day. At Rockport more shore birds were added, and a harbor seal provided diversion. After lunch beside the road, the buses went on to Gloucester, then on to the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, where a flock of 45 Canada geese arrived in the midst of a description of this area. A lone blue goose was leading the Canadas. Cap'n Bill Vinal took some of the trippers on an excursion to learn of the plant and animal communities of the refuge. Finally the group moved on to the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary of the Massachusetts Audubon Society for coffee and doughnuts. Along the way a snowy owl on a stack of salt marsh hay stopped the buses.

## Conservation Committee

For several years a Conservation Committee, with Dick Westwood as chairman, sent out periodic releases on current conservation issues. This was dropped because it was not certain that it was worth the effort and the expense involved. At the Boston meeting, however, the suggestion was made that this activity be renewed, and Dick Westwood has been asked again to function as chairman. He has said that he is willing if he can be sure the effort involved will be justified by the responsive activities of those receiving the releases and thus constituting themselves members of the Conservation Committee. If you are interested write to R. W. Westwood, Nature Magazine, 1214 16th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

Thus ended a successful five-day session, with a goodly number in attendance staying on to take part in working sessions in cooperation with the National Association of Biology Teachers Conservation Project.

## N.A.B.T.

### Conservation Project

"Training the Conservation Worker" — a 7-page leaflet is now available from the Conservation Project of the National Association of Biology Teachers.

The leaflet includes suggestions on forestry training by O. F. Hall; on wildlife training by Robert A. McCabe; on fisheries training by Karl F. Lagler; on recreation training by William H. Marshall; and on teacher training by Richard L. Weaver. These five conservationists summarized their suggestions in a symposium held at the University of Wisconsin cooperatively sponsored by NABT and the American Institute of Biological Science. The leaflet was reprinted from the January 1954 issue of the *AIBS Bulletin*.

Orlers for the reprint which costs ten cents (.10) should be addressed to Dr. Richard L. Weaver, Conservation Project Leader, P. O. Box 2073, Ann Arbor Michigan. There is a 20% discount on orders of 100 or more.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Group I	\$1.50	Membership, Newsletter, Cornell Leaflet
<input type="checkbox"/> Group II	\$2.50	Membership, Newsletter, Outdoors Illustrated
<input type="checkbox"/> Group III	\$3.00	Membership, Newsletter, Cornell Leaflet Outdoors Illustrated
<input type="checkbox"/> Group IV	\$4.00	Membership, Newsletter, Nature Magazine
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<input type="checkbox"/> Group VI	\$5.50	Membership, Newsletter, Nature Magazine, Outdoors Illustrated
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Sec. 34.65 (e) P. L. & R.

